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The Mercantile Times

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Welcome to Fall, at Last, on Beech

There have been times when we wondered if fall was really coming. The Woolly Worm Festival and the Valle Crusis Fair have come and gone. Our fall colors were 10 days to two weeks later than usual and it seems like summer is continuing. The warm temperatures of September, October and now early November, coupled with day-after-day of Carolina blue skies, have made for an almost perfect time on the mountain.

Whether you live on Beech, visit often or occasionally, you know how great a good weather day can be. After thinking the fall colors would never come, and might be muted, we were pleasantly surprised. For almost three weeks now we've lived through some of the best color in years. The wait has been worth it. Now we can begin our wait for winter.



Early Snow Fall

The mountain awoke Monday morning, two weeks ago, to spitting snow. After snowing on and off through Wednesday, we had recorded three inches of the white stuff. While not too unusual to have a taste of snow in October, it was nice to know it still could and that, perhaps, we could expect more very soon.

In searching weather records for the past years, our October snowfall average has been 2½ inches. Other averages to consider are October's average high temperature of 55.7 degrees and a low of 40.2 degrees. For this October our average high was 54.6 degrees and the average low was 42.5 degrees.

The Results are In . . .

The Woolly Worm has spoken. Ray's winter predictions have been calculated. The Farmers Almanac has issued it's forecast. All three sound good to us and point toward a winter skiers will enjoy.

Ray says Beech will get at least 100 inches of snow. The worm indicates a good start with cold and snow for the start of the season.

No El Niño is lurking on the horizon this year, so a normal winter is more likely than in the past few years. We could get a white Christmas according to both predictions. We'll hope for one anyway. Think snow and we will be looking for you soon.



Week 1.....	12/21 – 12/27	.....	Cold and Snowy
Week 2.....	12/28 – 1/3	.....	Normal temps, Light Snow
Week 3.....	1/3 – 1/9	.....	Mild, No Snow
Week 4.....	1/10 – 1/16	.....	Cold and Snowy
Week 5.....	1/17 – 1/23	.....	Normal temps, Light snow
Week 6.....	1/24 – 1/30	.....	Cold and Snowy
Week 7.....	2/1 – 2/7	.....	Cold and Snowy
Week 8.....	2/8 – 2/14	.....	Mild, No Snow
Week 9.....	2/15 – 2/21	.....	Mild, No Snow
Week 10.....	2/22 – 2/28	.....	Normal temps, Light snow
Week 11.....	3/1 – 3/7	.....	Cold and Snowy
Week 12.....	3/8 – 3/14	.....	Mild, No Snow
Week 13.....	3/15 – 3/21	.....	Mild, No Snow



Week 1.....	Cold and Snowy
Week 2.....	Cold and Snowy
Week 3.....	Cold and Snowy
Week 4.....	Cold and Snowy
Week 5.....	Severe cold and light snow
Week 6 – 11 Normal cold, No snow
Weeks 12 – 13 Cold and light snow

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PERIODIC E-NEWSLETTER FROM FRED'S GENERAL MERCANTILE BEECH MTN, NORTH CAROLINA

Ski Shop Emerging . . .

As with the beginning of each November, our ski team of John Hoffman and Meredith and Peter Patton begin a new winter/ski season. It's a special time for all of us at Fred's as we anticipate a new season, cold weather, snow and our ski and snowboard friends.

New rental equipment has been arriving for weeks, along with new ski accessories and clothing. New colors and new styles await you for the new season. We will all keep our fingers crossed and hope for an early start of the season.

Be sure to check out Ski Beech's website (www.skibeech.com) for what's new this season. Sign up for their e-newsletter to keep up-to-date on the ski hill activities.

Our new top-of-the-line Snowboards from Atomic are the talk of our shop. John and Peter are excited about the new board along with our Head and Rossignol skis. They urge everyone to think about protective headwear for skiers and boarders. We sell and rent helmets for everyone.

Once again we're offering mid-week rental packages. Please check us out for all your snow sport needs. Our great staff anxiously awaits the season and your visit to Fred's.



Almost Ready

The long awaited and much anticipated opening of Beech Mountain's new Buckeye Recreation Center is just days away. The last few items are being finished up. The heat is on and the floor surfaces will be going down

soon. The completion date is early December so stay in touch for updates. You can call the Recreation Center Director, Rosemary Burnett, at 828-387-4236 for information regarding the center and the scheduled Thanksgiving Weekend open house and tours.



Fred's Wins Fall Decorating Contest

Thanks to the efforts of Fred's staff, led by Meredith Patton, we won the much coveted sign noting the winner of the annual contest.



Complete with continuous music (*The Monster Mash*), black lights and special costumes, Meredith and Peter put together our winning entry. You can watch it change into "It's Going to Grandma's" theme then into "It's Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and their elf friends."



Beech Mountain Christmas Wreaths

Fred's has decided once again to make our wreaths available to you, your family, and friends. Delivered by UPS on the date you wish, a Beech Mountain fraser fir (balsam) can be hanging on your door this Christmas. Our wreaths are 24" in size, with a weather proof velveteen bow. For more information visit our website at www.fredsgeneral.com, where you can order on line.

2006 Ray's Weather Calendar



Ray's Weather Calendar

Treat yourself to something special. Ray's 2006 Weather Calendar. It has great photos, great weather info and statistics from Beech Mountain and the region. Available at Fred's while they last. Pick up one for yourself or a present for that person who has everything.

